Strawberry Shortcake

Berry Bitty Bakers

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It was the day before the Berry Bitty Baking Contest. Strawberry Shortcake and her friends were excited to see who could bake the berry best treats.

"I'm going to make a strawberry cheesecake!" said Strawberry.

"I want to make a plum tart," added Plum Pudding.

"I think I'll make lemon bars," said Lemon Meringue.

Orange Blossom, Blueberry Muffin, and Raspberry Torte said they'd rather taste treats than bake them.

"It's going to take a lot of work to make our recipes the berry best they can be," said Strawberry. "We should start baking at the café right away."

"I'll come over later," said Lemon. "I have some things to do first."

At the café, Plum and Strawberry measured and mixed their ingredients.

Then they put their treats in the oven to bake. Soon the kitchen was filled with sweet smells.

A little while later, Strawberry took her cheesecake out of the oven. But the top was burned!

"Oh bitterberries!" exclaimed Strawberry. "I need to try again."

When Plum tasted her tart, she thought it was too sour.
"Looks like I'll have to make another one if I want to win!" she said.

Meanwhile, Lemon went on a scooter ride with Orange and Raspberry.
"The baking contest is tomorrow," said Orange. "I can't wait!"
"How did your lemon bars come out?" Raspberry asked Lemon.
"I haven't started them yet," said Lemon. "But they won't take long to make."

Later Lemon visited Blueberry's bookstore.
"Hi, Lemon," said Blueberry. "Are you ready for the baking contest?"
"Not yet," replied Lemon. "I'll make my lemon bars later."

By the time Lemon arrived at Strawberry's café, it was berry late.

"How did the baking go?" Lemon asked Strawberry.

"It took a few tries, but we got our recipes just right," said Strawberry. "Good luck baking. See you in the morning."

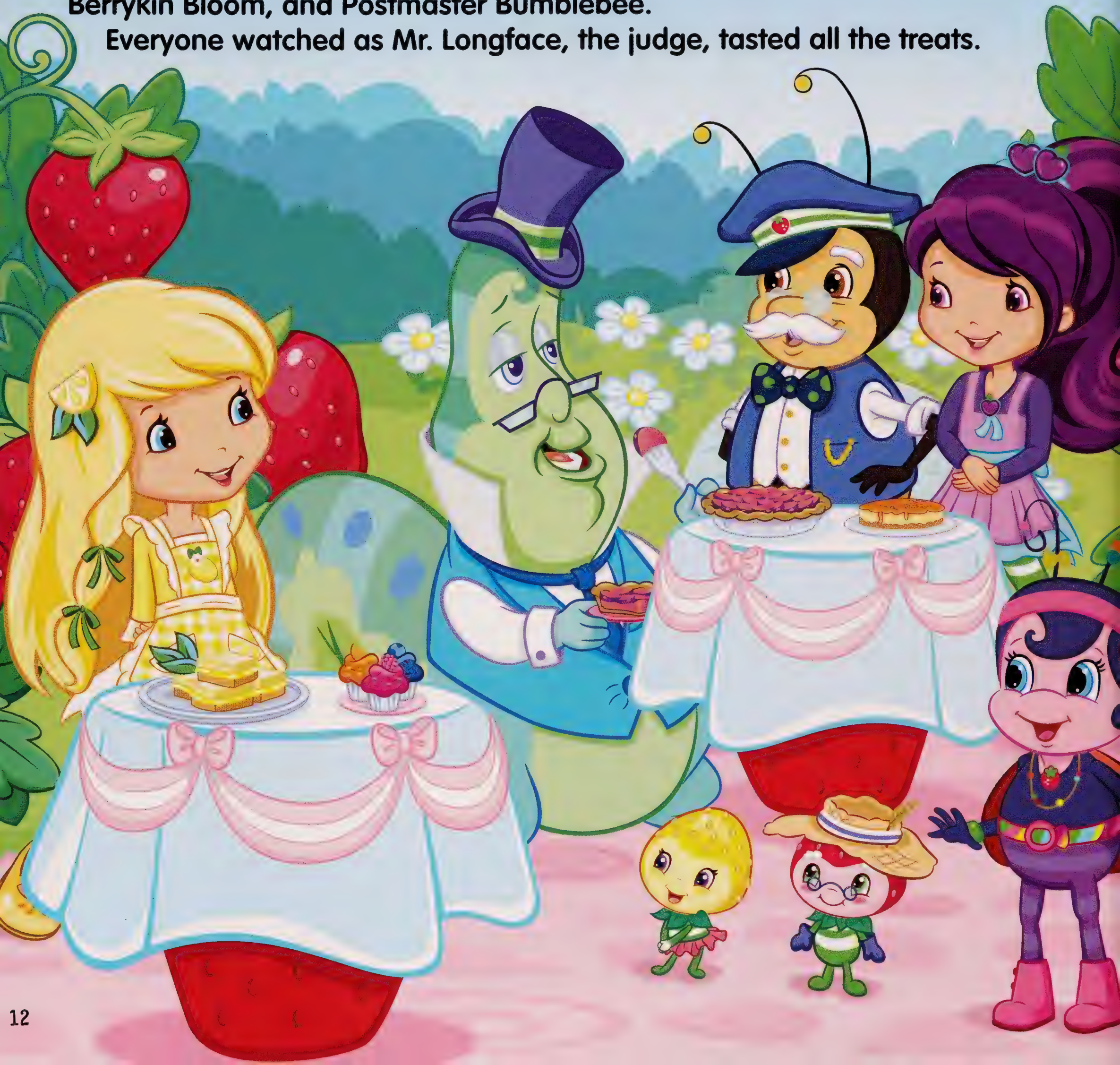
Lemon rushed around the café gathering the ingredients for her lemon bars. Soon the kitchen was a mess! There was flour on the counter and an egg splattered on the floor.

"I hope I can finish in time!" cried Lemon.

In the morning, everyone in town gathered for the contest.

Besides Plum, Lemon, and Strawberry, the other contestants were Jadeybug, Berrykin Bloom, and Postmaster Bumblebee.

Everyone watched as Mr. Longface, the judge, tasted all the treats.



Mr. Longface smiled when he tasted most of the entries. But he made a funny face when he tried Lemon's lemon bars.

"The results are in!" announced Mr. Longface. "And the winner is . . ."

". . . Plum Pudding!" exclaimed Mr. Longface.
"Thank you!" cried Plum.
"Mr. Longface, why didn't you like my lemon bars?" asked Lemon.
"I'm sorry, Lemon. But they were too salty," said Mr. Longface.

"Salty? How did that happen?" cried Lemon.

Lemon looked at Plum and thought, "Plum really wanted to win. Maybe she sprinkled salt on my lemon bars!"

Then Lemon said, "Plum, did you do something to ruin my lemon bars?"

"That's not berry nice!" Plum exclaimed. "I would never do something like that."

Plum was so upset that she ran straight home. Blueberry and Raspberry hurried after her.

"I don't think Plum would ruin your lemon bars," Orange explained to Lemon.

"Hmm . . . there must be another explanation," said Strawberry. "Let's go to my café. Maybe we can figure out what happened."

At the café, Lemon started to clean up the mess she had made the night before.

"Lemon, you shouldn't jump to conclusions," Strawberry told her. "There's no proof that Plum did anything wrong. She's your friend."

"I know," Lemon replied, "but . . ."

"Oh no!" Lemon cried suddenly. She saw that she had left a box of salt next to her mixing bowl.

"I must have added salt instead of sugar!" said Lemon.
"It was my fault, not Plum's!"
Lemon felt terrible that she had blamed Plum for her mistake.
Then Lemon had an idea.
She got out the sugar and started to make a new batch of lemon bars.

When Lemon was finished baking, she went to Plum's dance studio. Strawberry and Orange went, too.

"Plum, I'm sorry that I blamed you for ruining my lemon bars. It was my own fault that I didn't win," Lemon said. "I was rushing to finish and not being careful."

Then Lemon gave Plum the new batch of lemon bars.

"Lemon, you really hurt my feelings," said Plum. "But I accept your apology."

"Thank you," said Lemon. "You worked hard to make your tart the berry best! You deserved to win."

Plum shared the lemon bars with all her friends.

"Lemon, these are delicious!" said Plum. "What a sweet treat!"

"Thank you," Lemon replied. "But sharing them with my berry best friends is the sweetest treat of all."

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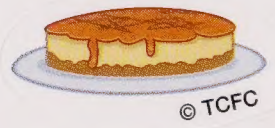
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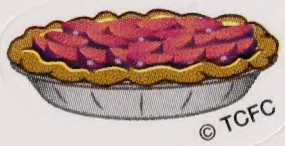
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Berry Bitty City is having its annual baking contest, and Strawberry Shortcake and her friends are excited to enter. All the girls work berry hard to make their sweet treats perfect, but Lemon Meringue waits until the last minute to start baking. Will Lemon's recipe be good enough to win?

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